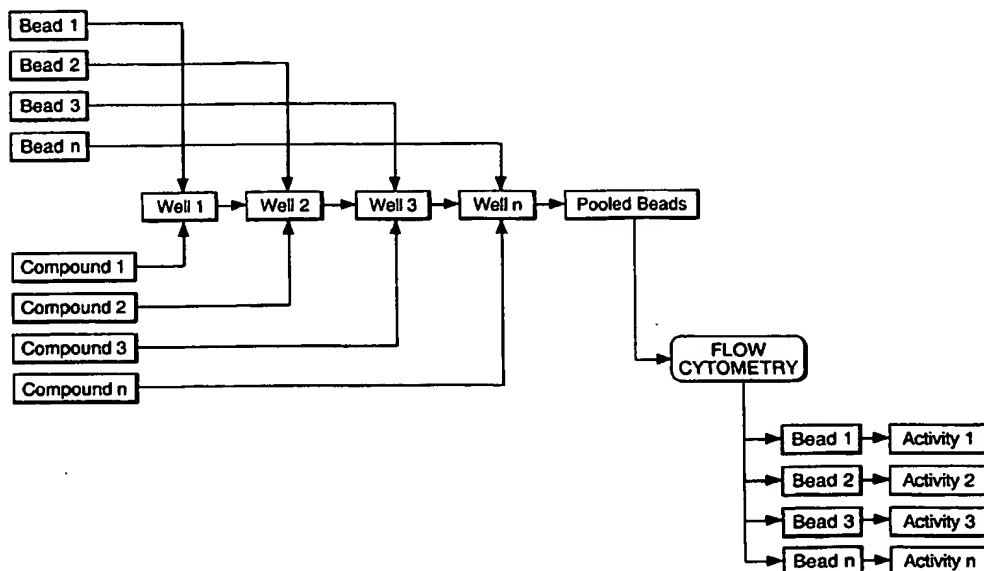




INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : G01N 33/58, C12Q 1/00, G01N 33/543		A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/64867
			(43) International Publication Date: 16 December 1999 (16.12.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/GB98/03727 (22) International Filing Date: 3 December 1998 (03.12.98) (30) Priority Data: 97309784.3 10 June 1998 (10.06.98) EP (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): AMERSHAM PHARMACIA BIOTECH UK LIMITED [GB/GB]; Amer- sham Place, Little Chalfont, Buckinghamshire HP7 9NA (GB). (72) Inventor; and (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): THOMAS, Nicholas [GB/GB]; 12 Mapletree Close, Radyr, Cardiff, South Glamorgan CF4 8RU (GB). (74) Agents: PENNANT, Pyers et al.; Stevens Hewlett & Perkins, 1 Serjeants' Inn, Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1LL (GB).		(81) Designated States: CA, JP, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published With international search report.	

(54) Title: MULTIPLE ASSAY METHOD



(57) Abstract

A method for the assay of N samples each containing a compound to be tested, comprises providing N reaction vessels each containing a population of carrier beads and other reagents for performing the assay, where N is at least 2 e.g. 80–4000. Each population of carrier beads is distinguishable from every other population. After adding the samples to the reaction vessels and performing the assays, the contents of all the reaction vessels are mixed and subjected to analysis by flow cytometry. By means of flow cytometry, each carrier bead is rapidly analysed to identify its population and also to determine the presence or concentration or biological activity of the compound to be tested.